

Personalized Confederate Swords to be Displayed At the Park, May 26 and 27, 2012:

Some of the most treasured of Civil War artifacts are the ones that display both history and art. In viewing these objects, the very personality of the owner and the essence of his campaign history are seemingly tied to the historical object. Two of the following swords are presentation-grade swords with exquisite but different blade etching styles. The third is the sword of a North Carolina foot officer that was simply personalized with an engraved inscription on the scabbard.

1. English Cavalry Saber by Isaac & Company, marked G for Georgia contract, which came into the Confederacy via blockade runner; it was altered by the Macon, Georgia, firm of McElroy on special order for Captain James H. Nichols, Company A, Phillips Legion Cavalry, "Governor's Horse Guards. Nichols was favorably mentioned in J.E.B. Stuart's correspondence, but there was a dark incident that influenced the course of this good man's post-Civil War family life.
2. Presentation Saber of Major Pollok Lee, staff officer to General Braxton Bragg, made by Leech & Rigdon, Columbus, Mississippi; epaulettes and star insignia from Lee's uniform; reproduction portrait of Lee holding this saber. It was documented as presented to Lee by the Ladies of Memphis, Tennessee. The saber's brass scabbard displays what appears to be a dent caused by small caliber projectile. Major Lee's life was also star-crossed, though in a different way than James Nichols. Traditional history blames him for an unfortunate event that occurred during the Battle of Chickamauga.
3. Foot officer's sword by Boyle, Gamble and MacFee, Richmond, Virginia, with scabbard engraved "J. C. Dowd / 1st Lt., Co. D / 48 Regt. N.C.S.T. Dowd fought with his unit in the Seven Days Battles around Richmond, Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg and Fredericksburg. His military career ended when he was severely wounded in front of the Willis Cemetery on Marye' Heights.



I look forward to seeing all of you at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park on Memorial Day Weekend!

**Russell Hicks
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